



Office of the Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures
852 Broadway, El Centro CA 92243

Jolene Dessert
Commissioner / Sealer

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Asst. Commissioner / Sealer

Ozonium Root Rot Certification Applicant:

Ozonium Root Rot (ORR) is a soil-borne disease caused by *Phymatotrichum omnivorum*. This fungal disease can infect over 2000 plant species. The entire County of Imperial is under quarantine for Ozonium Root Rot. The California State Interior Quarantine CCR 3401 restricts the movement of plants from our county into other counties within California unless the shipment of plants is certified by our office as free from ORR. There are also some states that restrict the movement of plants from California into their state unless the shipment of plants is certified. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has approved two protocols for certifying plants free from ORR. The first protocol, Protocol A: Field Grown Plants or Nursery Stock in contact with native soil; is (approximately) a two year process and requires 3 inspections per year of the approved indicator plants. Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), is the only indicator plant approved by CDFA. The second protocol, Protocol B: Greenhouse grown plants without contact with native soil (or plants grown in containers without contact with native soil); consists of one initial inspection and can be done upon request provided certain requirements can be met. Please find attached Protocol to Certify Plants Free from Ozonium Root Rot, approved by CDFA, for more detailed information.

Applicants wishing to apply for ORR certification must fully complete the attached application and return it to the Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. The application must include a detailed map (including the nearest cross streets) of the area to be certified. Applicants wishing to apply for Protocol A must submit application sufficiently early enough to allow inspections to be conducted during the summer months (June-September). This is because the disease is most visible during the warmest part of the year, and the alfalfa is ONLY inspected June through September at approximately one month intervals. Failure to submit the application early enough to allow for this inspection format will cause a one year delay in the certification of the growing grounds.

All applications will be evaluated and notice of acceptance will be given to the responsible parties. If disapproved, justification will be provided in writing. If approved, inspections for certification for Protocol A will commence from June through September of each year. Inspections may occur at other times of the year, as deemed necessary by the Commissioner.

Our current program fees for Ozonium Root Rot Certification are under review. For more information regarding fees please contact our office.

If *Phymatotrichum omnivorum* is detected during the inspection period, the responsible party will be notified and any remaining inspections will be cancelled. The responsible party will be billed only for inspections performed. If all inspections and laboratory determinations are negative for *Phymatotrichum omnivorum*, the applicant will be notified in writing once the balance for all program fees and inspections are paid in full.

In order to move plant material to other counties or states with restrictions, your plant material may need to be accompanied by a State Phytosanitary Certificate. A Phytosanitary State Certificate may be requested 24 hours prior to movement of certified articles. The current fee for Phytosanitary State Certificate for plants is \$55.30. Certificates may be requested by phone, e-mail, fax, or in person at our office during regular business hours.

Follow up inspections will be conducted every year to verify certified property remains free from ORR and/or follows and maintains practices that prevent introduction of ORR infected soil or infected plant material. Certification under Protocol A requires an annual inspection. Certification under Protocol B requires two inspections per year; these inspections will also incur program fees.

Please note: At any time, a positive laboratory determination of *Phymatotrichum omnivorum* in the commodity or property certified, may result in the revocation of certification and a refusal to issue certificates to any location enforcing the ORR quarantine. The circumstances surrounding such a determination will be reviewed by the Commissioner, on a case-by-case basis.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions. Our office number is 442-265-1500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra Mendivil". The signature is cursive and fluid.

Sandra Mendivil
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner
Pest Exclusion
Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner

**Protocol to Certify Plants Free from Ozonium Root Rot to
Meet CCR 3261 and CCR 3401
Approved by California Department of Food and Agriculture**

The following protocols have been approved by the California Department of Food and Agriculture as certification methods to meet California State Exterior Quarantine CCR 3261 and State Interior Quarantine CCR 3401 (Ozonium root rot, *Phymatotrichum omnivorum*). Growers or nursery plant producers must implement this process in full before applicable shipments can be certified for CCR 3261.

Protocol A: Field Grown Plants or Nursery Stock (in contact with native soil)

1. Starting plant material must:
 - a. Originate from a source either:
 - i. Certified as free from Ozonium root rot **OR**
 - ii. Located in an area that Ozonium root rot is not known to occur
 - b. Be propagated exclusively in one of the following (applies to nursery stock only):
 - i. Soil that originates from certified property, **OR**
 - ii. Soil less media, **OR**
 - iii. Soil that originates from a non-infested area, **OR**
 - iv. Soil that is steam pasteurized (160-180 degrees F for 30 minutes)
2. Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) indicator plants must be grown in the field throughout the property and inspected by the local Department of Agriculture on the following schedule:
 - a. If the plant spacing is 25 feet or less, 2-3 inspections during growing season for two years, **OR**
 - b. If the plant spacing is greater than 25 feet, 2-3 inspections during growing season for three years, **OR**
 - c. If the plant spacing is greater than 40 feet, certification cannot be accomplished.
3. Samples of indicator plants and roots must be collected during each inspection (as outlined in #2 above) and submitted to the local Department of Agriculture plant pathology lab for analysis.
4. All equipment entering the property shall be thoroughly cleaned of all plant material and soil.
5. After qualifying for certification as outlined in #2 and #3 above, annual inspection is required to confirm continued freedom from Ozonium root rot on nursery site.
6. Positive detection of Ozonium root rot on the property at any time will revoke the certification. The property will not be qualified for re-certification.

Protocol B: Greenhouse Grown Plants (without contact with native soil)

1. Starting plant material must:
 - a. Originate from either a certified source or a non-infested area, **OR**
 - b. Be propagated exclusively in the certified greenhouse with one of the following soil types:
 - i. Commercial soil-less media, **OR**
 - ii. Soil that originates from a non-infested area, **OR**
 - iii. Soil that is steam pasteurized (160-180 degrees F for 30 minutes)
2. Plants must be grown in soil types specified above and on benches 3 feet above ground or without contact with native soil during entire growing period.
3. The facility must have a good ground barrier in the area for production activities such as soil mixing, potting, temporary storage of plants/pots, loading and unloading plants, etc. Ground barrier can be concrete slab or durable ground fabric /weed barrier without rips or tears.
4. Finished potted plants must be placed in a clean place with solid ground barrier prior to shipping, or be directly loaded from greenhouse benches for shipping.
5. The facility will be subjected to initial inspection to ensure above production requirements, followed by additional two inspections during each production period.
6. If above production requirements cannot be met, alfalfa indicator plants will be applied as specified in protocol A.



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Application for Ozonium Root Rot Certification Application # OZ-_____ - _____

Applicant name (please print):	Date: / /
Applicant Signature:	Phone number:
Mailing Address:	Commodity:
Field Location (Canal Gate &/or Description):	Acres:
Cross Streets:	Certification Type: (Please check one) Protocol A () Protocol B ()

Map: Please provide a map of the property to be surveyed, including nearest cross streets. If certification type I-B is requested, include surrounding fields up to 1 mile in all directions on the map.

FOR COUNTY USE ONLY

Date received: / /						Inspector:		
Inspection dates, Year One:			Inspection dates, Year Two:			Inspection dates, Year Three:		
1 st :	2 nd :	3 rd :	1 st :	2 nd :	3 rd :	1 st :	2 nd :	3 rd :
Property Certified Free From ORR: Yes (___) or No (___)			Date Certification: / /			Signature:		
Comments:								

3261. OZONIUM ROOT ROT

State Exterior Quarantine

A quarantine is established against the following pest, its hosts, and possible carriers:

A. Pest. Ozonium root rot [*Phymatotrichum (Ozonium) omnivorum*], a fungus carried on the roots of plants and in moist soil.

B. Area Under Quarantine.

Arizona.	Entire state.
Arkansas.	Entire counties of Lafayette, Little River, and Miller.
Louisiana.	The entire parishes of Bossier and Caddo.
Nevada.	Entire county of Clark.
New Mexico.	Entire counties of Chaves, Doña Ana, Eddy, Grant, Hidalgo, Lea, Luna, Sierra.
Oklahoma.	Entire state.
Texas.	Entire state.
Utah.	Entire county of Washington.

C. Articles and Commodities Covered. All soil, nursery stock, or plants with roots, except as provided in subsection (D.2) below, are declared to be hosts or possible carriers of the pest herein quarantined against.

D. Restrictions. Articles and commodities covered are prohibited entry into California from the area under quarantine except as provided below:

1. Certification Requirement. Articles and commodities covered will be permitted entry into California from the area under quarantine provided they are accompanied by a certificate issued by a duly authorized agricultural official of the state of origin, establishing the fact that all material contained in the lot or shipment was grown in a manner approved by the Secretary to assure freedom from ozonium root rot or originated on premises determined to be free from ozonium root rot.

2. Exceptions. Exemptions of Certain Commodities. No restrictions are placed by this regulation upon the entry of the following:

- a. House plants grown in the home and not for sale.
- b. Smooth root vegetables such as potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, onions, turnips, and beets if not for planting and free from moist clods of soil, except that this exemption does not apply to mangels and sugar beets.
- c. Sugar beets for processing provided the beets are screened prior to or while loading to remove moist clods of soil.
- d. Cactus plants with roots, provided the roots are dry and free of soil.
- e. Aquatic plants such as water hyacinth and water lilies; dry resurrection plants; orchid plants growing in osmunda fiber; and air-layered rooted cuttings, if free from soil.
- f. Articles and commodities covered when determined by the director not to present a risk of carrying ozonium

root rot because of their condition or their manner of growth or production.

OZONIUM ROOT ROT CERTIFICATION: OKLAHOMA

APPENDIX A

03-09-89

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture has issued Ozonium Root Rot Certificate No. 1 to Stark Brothers Nurseries and Orchard Co. (General Office in Louisiana, Missouri), Certificate No. 2 to Inter-State Nurseries, Inc. (Hamburg, Iowa), Certificate No. 3 to Michigan Bulb and Flower of the Month Club, and Certificate No. 4 to Kelly Nurseries. In instances where several packages of plant material are shipped at the same time to the same receiver, both nurseries will be attaching one certificate to one package and putting the same certificate number on the packing slips for the remaining packages.

3401. OZONIUM ROOT ROT

State Interior Quarantine

A quarantine is established against the following pest, its hosts, and possible carriers:

A. Pest. Ozonium root rot (*Phymatotrichum* [*Ozonium*] *omnivorum*), a fungus carried on the roots of plants and in moist soil.

B. Area Under Quarantine.

Imperial County: The entire county.

Riverside County: All that portion of Riverside County described as follows:

Palo Verde Area: Beginning at the point of intersection of the north line of Township 5 South, San Bernardino Meridian, and the mid-line of the Colorado River; then running due west along said north line of Township 5 South to the west line of Range 21 East; then south on said west line of Range 21 East to the south line of Township 8 South; then east on the south line of Township 8 South to the mid-line of the Colorado River; then northerly along the mid-line of the Colorado River to the point of beginning.

Coachella Valley Area: (1) Beginning 548 feet south of northwest corner of the northwest one-fourth Section 22 in Township 5 South, Range 7 East, San Bernardino Meridian; then south 528 feet; then east 2,625 feet; then north 528 feet; then west 2,625 feet to the point of beginning; and (2) all that portion of Riverside County described as follows: The south 50 feet of the 5-acre tract located in the northwest one-fourth of Section 22 in Township 5 South, Range 7 East, San Bernardino Meridian, described as follows: Beginning 20 feet south and 427.5 feet west of the northeast corner of the northwest one-fourth of Section 22 in Township 5 South, Range 7 East, San Bernardino Meridian; then west 412.5 feet; then south 528 feet; then east 412.5 feet; then north 528 feet to the point of beginning.

San Diego County: All that portion of San Diego County described as follows:

Jacumba Area: Sections 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9, in Township 18 South, Range 8 East, San Bernardino Meridian.

C. Articles and Commodities Covered. All soil, nursery stock, or plants with roots except as provided in subsection (D.2) are declared to be hosts or possible carriers of the pest quarantined against.

D. Restrictions.

1. Certification Requirements. Except for those exemptions provided in subsection (D.2), articles and commodities covered are prohibited movement from the area under quarantine unless accompanied by a certificate issued by the agricultural commissioner. The certificate shall be issued when: (a) articles and commodities originate on premises free from ozonium root rot; or (b) articles and commodities originate from outside the area under quarantine and were safeguarded against infection by ozonium root rot while within the area under quarantine; or (c) articles and commodities were protected from infection by ozonium root rot and proper safeguard actions had been completed to the satisfaction of the commissioner.

2. Exceptions. No restrictions are placed by this regulation upon the movement of the following articles and commodities from the area under quarantine to points outside thereof:

- a. House plants grown in the home and not for sale.
- b. Smooth root vegetables such as potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, onions, turnips, and beets if not for planting and free from moist clods of soil, except that this exemption does not apply to mangels and sugar beets.
- c. Sugar beets for processing, provided the beets are screened prior to or while loading to remove moist clods of soil.
- d. Cactus plants with roots, provided the roots are dry and free of soil.
- e. Aquatic plants such as water hyacinth and water lilies; dry resurrection plants; orchid plants growing in osmunda fibre; and air-layered rooted cuttings, if free from soil.